



STATE REPRESENTATIVE **BETH MEYERS**

Meyers and colleagues Unveil Bills for Alzheimer's and Dementia Funds and Grants; Legislation Has Bipartisan Support

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MADISON - Four bills authored by Assembly Democrats will provide significant new funding for services and research into Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

The bills are among the products of the Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia and were announced today. The four Democratic contributions to the package have Republican co-sponsors, improving their chance of passage. They are:

LRB 4206/1: To provide a \$1 million increase in funds for respite care under the Alzheimer's Family Caregiver Support Program for fiscal year 2016-17.

LRB 4306/1: To provide a total of \$250,000 to be used for grants to counties or regions to finance the training of mobile crisis teams in fiscal 2016-17.

LRB 4209/1: To finance the hiring of four Dementia Care Specialists in counties with smaller populations, and to fill a dementia specialist coordinator position in the Department of Health Services.

LRB 4469/1: To provide \$50,000 to fund two studies of possible Alzheimer's-Dementia blood factors by the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.

Rep. Meyers, along with State Rep. Todd Novak will be the main authors of LRB 4209/1.

This proposal will provide about \$407,000 to hire dementia specialists in counties with under 150,000 residents. It also will provide about \$93,000 to hire a state professional tasked with educating employers about dementia issues in the workplace, both involving employees and family members of employees.

"Sparsely populated counties need financial assistance serving individuals with Alzheimer's and dementia, as well as the families and communities who care for them," stated Meyers.

"I'm pleased to have had the opportunity to be a part of this taskforce. This legislative package that we are putting forward is a step in the right direction to help families, caregivers, ADRC's and most importantly individuals who are affected by Alzheimer's and dementia. Aging is universal—and we're all in this together," said Meyers.

